THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Nine– “Putting Sin to Death” -Colossians 3:5**

**“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” Colossians 3:5**

*“The New Testament leaves no doubt that holiness is our responsibility. If we are to pursue holiness, we must take some decisive action. I once discussed a particular sin problem with a person who said, “I’ve been praying that God would motivate me to stop.” Motivate him to stop? What this person was saying in effect was that God had not done enough. It is so easy to ask God to do something more because that postpones facing up to our own responsibility.” (pg.65)*

**P** utting to death the remaining sin in our flesh (Col.3:5) is something we are instructed to do.

**U**  nder the Lordship of Jesus Christ, our King commands us by the empowerment of His Spirit

**T** o “mortify”our flesh: to destroy and deaden sin’s strength as it tries to control our bodies.

**T** he crucial question then is, *“How do we destroy the strength and vitality of sin?”* pg.66

**I** f we are to work at this difficult task, we must have ***convictions*** and a ***commitment*** not to sin.

**N** ot until I’m convinced that a holy life is God’s will for me, will I make any effort to obey God.

**G** rowing and developing ***convictions*** in specific areas of obedience and making a ***commitment*** to live a life of holiness without exceptions will help you and I to mortify our flesh. pg.66;73

**S** imply, these convictions are developed and will grow through exposure to the Word of God.

**I** can learn the necessity of holiness and God’s specific will for my life through His Word. pg.67

**N** otice Jesus’ words, “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me.” (John 14:21) pg.67

**T** o love Christ is to obey Him. Obedience is the pathway to holiness. So how can I obey Him?

**O** ne of the most effective ways of influencing our minds towards obedience and knowing God’s will is memorizing scripture (Ps.119:11). pg.67

**D** estroying sin’s strength comes as I memorize and apply God’s clear commands to my life.

**E** ver asked, “How do I determine God’s will when things aren’t specifically in God’s Word?”

**A**  sk yourself: *“Is it helpful: physically, spiritually, and mentally?(*1 Cor. 6:12) *Does it bring me* *under its power?(*1 Cor.6:12) *Does it hurt others?(*1 Cor.8:13) *Does it glorify God?(*1 Cor.10:13)

**T** hese questions can get rather searching. But they must be asked if we are to pursue holiness as a total way of life. pg.69-70

**H** aving biblical ***convictions***and making a **commitment**to live a life of holiness without exceptions marks out a clear path for us to “destroy the strength and vitality of sin” that remains in our flesh “by the strength and under the direction of the Holy Spirit.” pg.66

*Jerry Bridges throws out a challenge for us as he closes this chapter, “Jonathan Edwards, one of the great preachers of early American history, used to make resolutions. One of these was, “Resolved, never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.”* *Dare we modern-day Christians make such a resolution? Are we willing to commit ourselves to the practice of holiness without exceptions? There is no point in praying for victory over temptation if we are not willing to make a commitment to say no to it. It is only by learning to deny temptation that we will ever put to death the misdeeds of the body…” pg.74*

Thanks be to God through: persistent prayer, being persuaded that a holy life is God’s will for you, planning a practical system for scripture memory and putting the Word of God into practice by the empowerment of His indwelling Spirit, you and I can by His grace continually and gradually destroy and deaden sin’s strength. Until we see Him, we will finally be like Him! (1 John 3:1-3NASB)

Pressing onward and looking upward,

Christyn